

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on May 9, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, May 9, 2008

The President's Radio Address

May 3, 2008

Good morning. This week, the Commerce Department reported that GDP grew at an annual rate of six-tenths of a percent in the first quarter. This rate of growth is not nearly as high as we would like. And after a record 52 months of uninterrupted job growth, April was the fourth month in a row in which our economy lost jobs, although the unemployment rate dropped to 5 percent.

My administration has been clear and candid on the state of the economy. We saw the economic slowdown coming. We were upfront about these concerns with the American people, and we've been taking decisive action.

In February, I signed an economic growth package to put more than \$150 billion back into the hands of millions of American families, workers, and businesses. This week, the main piece of that package began being implemented, as nearly 7.7 million Americans received their tax rebates electronically. Next week, the Treasury Department will begin mailing checks to millions more across the country. And by this summer, it expects to have sent rebates to more than 130 million American households. These rebates will deliver up to \$600 per person, \$1,200 per couple, and \$300 per child.

This package will help American families increase their purchasing power and help offset the high prices that we're seeing at the gas pump and the grocery store. It will also provide tax incentives for American businesses to invest in their companies, which will help create jobs. Most economic experts predict that the stimulus will have a positive effect on the economy in this quarter and even a greater impact in the next. And Americans should have confidence in the long-term outlook for our economy.

While getting more money back in the hands of Americans is a good start, there are

several additional steps that Congress needs to take to ease the burdens of an uncertain economy. Americans are concerned about energy prices. To increase our domestic energy supply, Congress needs to allow environmentally safe energy exploration in northern Alaska, expand America's refining capacity, and clear away obstacles to the use of clean, safe nuclear power.

Americans are concerned about rising food prices. Yet, despite this growing pressure on Americans' pocketbooks, Congress is considering a massive farm bill. Instead, they should pass a fiscally responsible bill.

Americans are concerned about making their mortgage payments and keeping their homes. Yet Congress has failed to pass legislation I have repeatedly requested to modernize the Federal Housing Administration that will help more families stay in their homes, reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to ensure they focus on their housing mission, and allow State housing agencies to issue tax-free bonds to refinance subprime loans.

Americans are concerned about their tax bills. With all the other pressures on their finances, American families should not have to worry about the Federal Government taking a bigger bite out of their paychecks. So Congress should eliminate this uncertainty and make the tax relief we passed permanent.

America is now facing a tough economic period, but our long-term outlook remains strong. This week, we saw evidence that our economy is continuing to grow in the face of challenges. This should come as no surprise. No temporary setbacks can hold back the most powerful force in our economy: the ingenuity of the American people. Because of your hard work and dedication, I am confident that we will weather this rough period and emerge stronger than ever.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:55 a.m. on May 2 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Commencement Address at
Greensburg High School in
Greensburg, Kansas
May 4, 2008**

Thank you all. Thank you very much. Superintendent, thank you for that kind introduction. Governor Sebelius, thank you for being here; Senator Brownback; Senator Roberts; Congressman Tiahrt; Mayor Janssen; Mayor-elect Dixon; City Administrator Hewitt; Principal Fulton; members of the administration; faculty and staff; distinguished guests; family, friends, and most importantly, the class of 2008.

I am honored to be at Greensburg High School, home of the Rangers. As some of you may know, I used to be one of the owners of a baseball team with that name. *[Laughter]* So from one Ranger fan to another, I give you this message: Beat 'em up, beat 'em up, GHS.

And I thank you for rescheduling this ceremony so I could make it. *[Laughter]* I know you originally planned to hold the commencement next weekend. It's the same weekend as my daughter's wedding. I could have suggested changing the date of the wedding instead. *[Laughter]* I think we all know how that would have turned out. *[Laughter]* So thanks so very much.

It is fitting that we hold the commencement on this day, because it marks the 1-year anniversary of the tornado that forever changed your lives. Those of you who lived through the storm remember your ears popping from the change in the air pressure. You remember huddling with your loved ones in basements. And when it was safe to come out, you remember the shock of seeing your entire town in ruins.

At this ceremony, we celebrate your year-long journey from tragedy to triumph. We celebrate the resurgence of a town that stood

tall when its buildings and homes were laid low. We celebrate the power of faith, the love of family, and the bonds of friendship that guided you through the disaster. And finally, we celebrate the resilience of 18 seniors who grow closer together when the world around them blew apart. When the class of 2008 walks across the stage today, you will send a powerful message to our Nation: Greensburg, Kansas, is back, and its best days are ahead.

To reach this day, the class of 2008 has overcome challenges unlike those faced by any other graduating class. You've spent a year in portable classrooms that look very different from the red book—brick school you attended as freshmen. Many of you have gone home to trailers that lack the comforts of the houses you had. All of you have had to juggle a full load of schoolwork and activities while also working to help this community rebuild. Through it all, you've shown determination and perseverance, and today you have earned the right to call yourselves graduates of Greensburg High School. And I congratulate you all on a tremendous achievement.

To reach this day, the class of 2008 depended on the support of loving families. Your families are proud of what you've accomplished, and I know you are grateful for their unconditional love. I ask all the parents to stand and receive the thanks of the class of 2008.

To reach this day, the class of 2008 also relied on the guidance and wisdom of your teachers and administrators. They have known many of you since your first day of kindergarten, and they were determined to help you graduate in the town where your education began. Less than 4 months after the storm, they managed to reopen classes for the start of the new school year. Under the leadership of your superintendent and the principal, the faculty and staff of Greensburg High School have given this community stability and strength in a time of desperate need. And today we give them all our thanks.

Over the past year, your—the members of your class have relied on fundamental values that have given you strength and comfort as you deal with hardship and you heal your community and you rebuild your lives.

You've learned some important lessons that will serve you for whatever you do next.

The Greensburg class of 2008 has learned that America's communities are stronger than any storm. The tornado tore apart the beams and boards that held your houses together, but it could not break the bonds of family and faith that hold your town together.

We see the strength of those bonds in the way that you held commencement last year on a golf course just weeks after the storm. We see the strength of those bonds in congregations that have stuck together despite losing their church buildings. We see the strength of those bonds in the caravan of cars that follow your school sports teams wherever they go. Because the storm destroyed your athletic facilities, you had a full schedule of away games. And even though you're always on the road, they tell me you always had a home crowd.

When your boys basketball team made it to the sub-State finals, nearly every person in this town turned out. The team even got a police escort. They say it was bigger than the one I got. *[Laughter]* Your fans rushed to the court after you won on a buzzer beater to advance to the State tournament for the first time in 30 years. And I have been told that the first person to spring out of the stands was Principal Fulton. *[Laughter]* The basketball team finished with a great record, and along with all your other school teams, it has given this good town a lot to cheer about.

As the class of 2008 ventures into the world, your hometown will always be a source of stability and comfort and pride. Greensburg is where many of your parents and grandparents grew up. It's where you went to church with your neighbors on Sundays. It's where you wanted home to be after the storm. So wherever you go, you will be able to rely on the ties of family and your faith and your friends that were forged here, and you'll always carry Greensburg, Kansas, in your heart.

The Greensburg class of 2008 has learned that Americans will always rebuild stronger and better than before. Often in life, you're dealt the hand that you did not expect. The test of a community and the test of an individual is how you play the hand. Over the

past 7 years, I've seen Americans in communities across our country overcome some tough hands. I've seen the resolve of American spirit in the wake of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the flood waters of Hurricane Katrina, eight hurricanes in Florida, tornadoes in States like Missouri, Tennessee, and Alabama, wildfires in southern California and in Oregon. I saw the same resolve and the same determination in the people of Greensburg, Kansas.

When I visited Greensburg last year, I remember walking your streets, and I remember meeting Kaye Hardinger. She was standing outside the wreckage of her home. She took a look at me and said, "I would have invited you in for coffee," but she didn't have time to dust. *[Laughter]* Today, Kaye lives in a trailer with her family in a nearby town, but she continues to plan for the day when she and her family move back to Greensburg and rebuild. And, Kaye, when that day comes, fire up the coffeepot. *[Laughter]*

When I visited Greensburg, I also met a man named Kelly Estes. Kelly is a John Deere dealer. I remember so very well walking with Kelly and his wife and his family through the rubble after that storm hit. He lost more than \$18 million worth of equipment, but he was ready to look for the future. After caring for his employees who had lost their homes, he began making plans to bring his business back to Greensburg. Earlier this year, he broke ground on a new dealership that will be a model of energy efficiency, create more than two dozen new jobs, and inject new vitality into Greensburg economy.

People like Kaye and Kelly are part of a more hopeful future for your city. The leaders of your town understand that out of the devastation of the storm comes an opportunity to rebuild with a free hand and a clean slate. They envision a future where new jobs flourish, where every public building meets the highest environmental standards, and where the beauty of rural America meets the great possibilities of new technology. The community is dedicated to putting the "green" in Greensburg. And as you work to achieve this vision, the Federal Government will honor its commitments and continue to stand by you.

Ultimately, the future of Greensburg and the future of our Nation will belong to the young. The education that you've received at this school will prepare you for a lifetime of opportunity and achievement. And the lessons you have learned in this town will give you the strength to rise above any obstacle in your path. You've seen life at its most difficult. You have emerged stronger from it. Now I call on you to take this spirit forward and help our country in a way that makes us more resilient and more courageous as a people.

And finally, the Greensburg class of 2008 also understands what it means to serve a higher cause. The hours—in the hours after the storm, your concern was not for what you'd lost; it was for the safety of the people you loved. As senior class president Jarrett Schaef said, he'd look for his friends in the dark of night. And I appreciate that kind of leadership. When someone suggested that he leave town, he refused. Here is what he said: "I hadn't found nearly enough of my friends, and I wasn't going to leave until I had."

Jarrett wasn't alone that night. As you well know, many of your family members rushed to Greensburg from nearby counties and other States to offer love and support. Other folks came from towns as well, compassionate citizens who came to do their duty to help a neighbor in need.

And you'll always remember these generous and caring souls. And you will always remember the thousands of other volunteers who descended upon Greensburg in the months that followed. The volunteers came from all across America.

One of them was a student named Christopher Skrzypczak. Last year, Christopher almost lost his life when a tornado tore through his high school in Enterprise, Alabama. So when he saw the news reports about Greensburg, he wanted to help. He raised money to purchase hundreds of new books for your library. He drove with his family all the way from Enterprise to Greensburg to deliver the books in person. Volunteers like Christopher brought hope to this community, and they set an inspiring example for our country.

Over the past year, students in Greensburg have also answered the call to serve others. Despite all that you lost, each of you has dis-

covered that you have far more to give. Over the summer, many of you worked with AmeriCorps to clear debris and help the needy. On Greensburg Make a Difference Day, you helped plant new trees and flowers in the parks. When a tornado hit Jackson, Tennessee, in February, elementary and middle school students worked with their teachers to raise more than \$5,000 in aid for the victims. In these acts of service, we are reminded that as much as Greensburg changes, the compassion of its citizens is a constant source of strength.

One member of your class who represents the spirit of service is Aaron Widner. This fall, Aaron decided to enlist in the Marine Corps. Like many other courageous young men and women across America, he has stepped forward to defend our freedom during a time of war, and we honor him today. And, Aaron, I wish you the best of luck at boot camp, and I look forward to serving as your Commander in Chief.

On this graduation day, I ask every member of your class to devote your lives to a cause larger than yourselves. Over the past year, you've learned that you can never predict what tomorrow will bring. Wherever the winds of life take you, you can be certain that serving others will always make your lives more fulfilling.

As we watch the class of 2008 graduate today, the dark clouds from 1 year ago have parted and have made way for a brighter future. We'll always hold in our hearts those who lost their lives. But with faith in He who rides above the mighty storm, we go forth with confidence that Greensburg will rise again.

I thank you for having me today. God bless you. God bless you, and may God bless the class of 2008. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:28 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Darin Headrick, superintendent, Greensburg USD 422; Gov. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas; Mayor John Janssen, Mayor-elect Bob Dixon, and City Administrator Steve Hewitt of Greensburg, KS; and Randy Fulton, principal, Greensburg High School.

Proclamation 8252—Military Spouse Day, 2008

May 5, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Military spouses embody the courage, nobility of duty, and love of country that inspire every American. On Military Spouse Day, we pay tribute to the husbands and wives who support their spouses in America's Armed Forces during times of war and peace.

The legacy of military spouses began when colonial Americans were fighting for independence. Martha Washington boosted the morale of her husband's troops by visiting battlefields and tending to the wounded. Since then, members of our Armed Forces have served our Nation accompanied by the steadfast love and support of their spouses and families.

While our men and women in uniform are protecting our country's founding ideals of liberty, democracy, and justice, their spouses live with uncommon challenges, endure sleepless nights, and spend long periods raising children alone. Many military spouses are also committed volunteers, serving other military families and local communities. Our Nation benefits from the sacrifices of our military families, and we are inspired by their courage, strength, and leadership.

On Military Spouse Day and throughout the year, we honor the commitment spouses have made to freedom's cause. To learn about ways to support our troops and their spouses and families, I encourage all Americans to visit www.americasupportsyou.mil.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 9, 2008, as Military Spouse Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities and by expressing their gratitude to the husbands and wives of those serving in the United States Armed Forces.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of May, in the year

of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:13 a.m., May 7, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 8.

Remarks at a Cinco de Mayo Celebration

May 5, 2008

Welcome. *Sientese*. [Laughter] Laura and I welcome you to the Rose Garden for what is going to be a spectacular evening. We are so glad you are here. Ambassador Garza, thank you for coming. Ambassador Sarukhan, thank you for being here as well. I appreciate Members of the United States Senate for joining us, Members of the House of Representatives for joining us, members of my Cabinet, members of the Hispanic American community.

I want to thank the Mariachi Campanas de America from San Antonio, Texas, for joining us here today. After dinner, we are so fortunate to have Shaila Durcal, who will be singing for us. Hold your applause for Shaila until after she sings. I will tell you, however, that she has interrupted her honeymoon to come to the Rose Garden tonight, for which we are very grateful.

Cinco de Mayo is a joyous celebration. It commemorates a joyful moment in the history of Mexico. It's when Mexican soldiers defended their independence against what appeared to be an elite and insurmountable army from Europe. Nearly a century-and-a-half later, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated by Americans and Mexicans alike. After all, it is a symbol of determination against great odds, and it is a source of inspiration for all who love freedom.

For me, Cinco de Mayo is a chance to say that Mexico and the United States are connected by more than geography. Sure, we share an important border, but we're also united by values, our love of family and faith and freedom. We share an interest in making sure our people are prosperous and safe.

In America, we deeply value the culture and the contribution of Mexican Americans. The United States is a richer place, a more vibrant place, because people who have—claim Mexican heritage now are called United States citizens. And today we honor those Mexican Americans who live in America, and we consider ourselves fortunate to have Mexico as a friend and a neighbor.

And so my toast is to Mexico and to the United States and the people therein. *Que Dios los bendiga. Feliz Cinco de Mayo.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:51 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mexico's Ambassador to the U.S. Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Proposed Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation for Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

May 5, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2008–19

Memorandum for the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy

Subject: Proposed Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation for Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

I have considered the proposed Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation for Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, along with the views, recommendations, and statements of interested agencies.

I have determined that the performance of the Agreement will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Pursuant to section 123 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b)), I hereby approve the proposed Agreement and au-

thorize the Secretary of State to arrange for its execution.

The Secretary of State is authorized to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 13, 2008]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 6, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 14.

Remarks on Signing a Bill To Award the Congressional Gold Medal to Aung San Suu Kyi

May 6, 2008

I just signed a bill passed by the leaders of the Senate and the House—who have joined me—to honor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi the—with the Congressional Gold Medal.

This is a fitting tribute to a courageous woman who speaks for freedom for all the people of Burma and who speaks in such a way that she's a powerful voice in contrast to the junta that currently rules the country.

Burma's been hit by a terrible natural disaster. Laura and I and Members of the Senate and the House here express our heartfelt sympathy to the people of Burma. The United States has made an initial aid contribution, but we want to do a lot more. We're prepared to move U.S. Navy assets to help find those who've lost their lives, to help find the missing, to help stabilize the situation. But in order to do so, the military junta must allow our disaster assessment teams into the country.

So our message is to the military rulers: Let the United States come and help you help the people. Our hearts go out to the people of Burma. We want to help them deal with this terrible disaster. And at the same time, of course, we want them to live in a free society.

I want to thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your determination to send a message that America stands with this courageous woman. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:49 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma. H.R. 4286, approved May 6, was assigned Public Law No. 110–209.

Remarks on Military Spouse Day

May 6, 2008

Thank you very much, Phil. I appreciate you and your band members being here today. Thanks for entertaining us here on the South Lawn of the White House. And we are so glad you have come.

We're honoring six recipients of the President's Volunteer Service Awards. And as we do so, we celebrate the contributions and achievements of our military spouses all across the country.

Laura sends her very best. She's heading down to Texas for—[*applause*]. She left behind a DVD—[*laughter*—with Steve Martin; said, you might want to watch this before you head down there yourself. [*Laughter*] But she sends her love. And I'm very fortunate to have married such a kind and decent, compassionate woman.

I appreciate the Secretary of Defense. Secretary Bob Gates is with us. I'm proud you're here, Mr. Secretary. Secretary Pete Geren of the United States Army is with us. Secretary Don Winter, U.S. Navy, and his wife, Linda, have joined us. Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Hoss Cartwright—General Hoss Cartwright and his wife, Sandee, have joined us. General Dick Cody, Vice Chairman of the—Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, and his wife, Vicki, is with us. Thanks for coming, General Cody; Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Skip Bowen.

Members of the United States Congress—John Carter, Susan Davis, Dutch Ruppersberger—we're so honored you all have come to pay tribute to the military spouses. I'm really pleased that Mary Jo Myers, who is a member of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, is with us. She's the wife of General Richard Myers, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Appreciate the winners' families joining us

here today. But thank—most of all, thank you all for coming.

So here's why this event is happening. Twenty-four years ago, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation recognizing Military Spouses Day. And my own judgment is, is that we need to recognize military spouses every day. But this is the time of year that we honor the wives and husbands who support our men and women in uniform. And today it's my honor to welcome you here to the White House. I can't think of a better place in which to say thanks.

Whether you're signed up for military life at the recruiting station or at the altar rail, each person—[*laughter*]—each person is a volunteer. And when you married your soldier, sailor, airman, marine, or coast guardsman, you became more than just part of a family; you became part of our Nation's military family.

It's not an easy life being in the military, particularly when we're at war, and I understand that. For many of you, it means packing up your belongings and moving on short notice. I suspect a lot of you have been on the move much more than you thought you would be on the move. [*Laughter*] For others, it means living in a foreign land, which can be exciting, but it also means you're far away from your extended family, and that's hard. And for many of you, it means missing a spouse as he or she serves on the frontlines in this battle to secure our country and to spread freedom for the sake of peace.

Being left behind when a loved one goes to war has got to be one of the hardest jobs in the United States military. I've talked to a lot of folks who have been in the theater and—as well as spouses, and it is clear to me the harder job, in many ways, is to be the person at home taking care of the kids and having sleepless nights as you pray for safe return.

You're carrying out the burdens. You're serving our country. And it's noble service, and it's necessary service. And the United States [of] * America owes you a huge debt of gratitude. And so, on behalf of our people, thank you for what you're doing.

* White House correction.

One of the things I have learned in 7½ years as the President is, as you've served our country, you also serve each other. I've spent a lot of time visiting our military bases here in America and across the world, and it's been a great experience. What I've found is that there's always a close-knit community, people who are sharing a special bond and people who take time to look out after people. It's a—it's been an amazing experience to see the fabric of our military communities firsthand. And today we're going to honor six military spouses who've done a little extra to serve their communities and serve the Nation.

First, we honor an Army wife named Colleen Saffron. In May 2004, Colleen's husband, Terry, who is with us, was severely injured while serving in Iraq. And Colleen learned firsthand the challenges facing the families of wounded warriors. So last year, she helped found Operation Life Transformed, which is a nonprofit that helps family members and caregivers of our wounded troops get the training they need so they can work from home while caring for their loved ones. To date, Operation Life Transformed has helped more than 30 spouses and caregivers get the funding and support they need for new and flexible careers. And one of those she helps is Maria Baez, and she was the mom whose marine son was paralyzed by a sniper bullet in Fallujah. Here's what Maria said about Operation Life Transformed: "I can't thank you enough for helping me and trusting me and also for not giving up."

And so, Colleen, America can't thank you enough to help our wounded troops and their families. And we're so pleased to have you here at the White House. First, stand up. Thank you. Good job.

Today we honor a Coast Guard wife named Ramona Vazquez. Several years ago, while stationed in Miami, Ramona got to know an enlisted coast guardsman named Nate Bruckenthal. Then in 2004, she learned that Nate had been killed by a suicide bomber in Iraq, the first coast guardsman killed in military action since the Vietnam war. Nate left behind a wife, who was expecting their first child. And when she gave birth to a daughter named Harper, Nate's dad was

quoted as saying, "When one door closes, another door opens."

He inspired Ramona to start Nate's Open Door Baby Pantry, a program that provides diapers and formula and clothing and toys and furniture to military members and civilians at no charge. The motto of this organization is: "Unconditional love and support." And so, Ramona, America is proud of you; I'm proud of you. I have a feeling that Nate is looking down on great pride today as well. Thank you for joining us.

Today we honor Air Force husband Bob Davison. Since his wife, Lisa, joined the Air Force nearly 12 years ago, Bob has lived on bases across the country and across the world. And everywhere Bob goes, he's made a difference.

When Lisa and Bob were stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, Bob raised \$10,000 for the local Fisher House. When they were stationed at Lakenheath, England, Bob established the Airman's Food Pantry, raising nearly \$120,000 in donations to provide short-term food aid for our military families facing financial difficulties. When they were stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, Bob began volunteering with Operation Home Front, which is a national nonprofit that assists our military families in need. He has continued working with Operation Home Front at his wife's current duty station at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi.

To date, he's raised donations worth more than \$350,000 for the organization, including more than 1 million phone card minutes for distribution to our service members. Lisa Davison is a leader in the United States Air Force. Bob Davison is a leader in America's armies of compassion. And I welcome you today to the White House. Good job. Thanks for serving.

We honor Navy wife Ellen Patton. Ellen's husband, Mark, is a captain in the Navy, and her son, Erik, is a cadet at West Point. She loves our military; she loves her boys; and she loves to sew. *[Laughter]* So she put these two loves together—or three loves together and began to volunteer with Quilts of Valor Foundation. The organization has taken on a mission to provide wartime quilts to every single service member wounded in the war against these extremists. So far, she has made

and sent more than 80 quilts to veterans and wounded troops. She also tracked down many of the sailors injured during the attack of the USS *Cole* and made quilts for them as well. Ellen says that when she sees troops coming home with terrible wounds, she wants to provide them with some “healing in knowing that they are appreciated.” So, Ellen, we thank you for what you do to wrap our soldiers in quilts made with such loving hands. And welcome to the White House.

We honor Army Reserve wife Dawnle Scheetz. In 2006, Dawnle’s husband, Major Larry Scheetz, deployed to Iraq with the U.S. Army Reserve. When he arrived, Larry saw terrible conditions of young Iraqi children and told Dawnle about it. So Dawnle started Operation School House, a project to collect school supplies and clothing and toys for poor children in Afghanistan and Iraq. During an 8th-month span, she collected 5 tons of supplies, which were packaged and shipped to the frontlines and distributed by our troops. Here’s something even more impressive: She’s doing it while fighting breast cancer.

And so, Dawnle, your service has changed young lives in Iraq and Afghanistan; your service has inspired the whole Nation. We all pray for a speedy recovery, and we honor you here at the White House.

We honor a Marine wife named Kaprece James. Kaprece has been married for 2 years to Second Lieutenant Rodney James. She’s living at her first duty station, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms. She’s been a force of nature since she’s arrived.

When she moved on the base, Kaprece immediately began volunteering with the American Red Cross. She’s assisted with more than 100 Red Cross communications messages that have provided our deployed service members with notification or assistance in emergency situations. Kaprece developed the first year-round youth leadership program on base to help young people learn from professional—learn professional leadership and interviewing skills. She raised funds for a program that will allow young people to assemble 500 disaster kits for enlisted service members and their families. She developed a special newsletter for distribution to 250 families of deployed personnel. And on

top of all that, she serves as a cheerleading coach for the children of marines and civilian personnel on base. Whew. [*Laughter*]

So today, Kaprece, we honor you. We honor your enthusiasm. We admire your dedication to the Corps. And we thank you for the example you’ve set.

The six individuals we honor here today have earned the respect of our Nation. They represent thousands of other military spouses who make significant contributions to our country. So we honor six, but we say thanks to millions.

Our country appreciates the service and devotion. Our country owes you something else in return. One way we can repay the service of our spouses is by making the burdens of military life a little easier. So this year, I signed into law a change in the Family and Medical Leave Act, which allows a spouse, parent, child, or next of kin to take up to 26 workweeks of leave to care for a service member with a certain—serious injury or illness who is undergoing therapy or treatment. I hope that helps.

When we find substandard housing, we’ll take care of it. We want to make sure that the sacrifice you’re making is one that at least you understand that the Government appreciates what you’re doing.

I sent up some legislation—I certainly hope Congress moves on it quickly—that will make it easier to expand access to child care, create new authorities to appoint qualified spouses into civil service jobs, provide educational opportunities and job training for our military spouses, and finally, allow our troops to transfer their unused education benefits to spouses or children. This legislation’s moving. I hope to be able to sign it as quickly as possible. It is the absolute right thing to do. It should send a clear message that we care for you, we respect you, and we love you.

Thanks for coming to the White House. May God bless you, your families, your loved ones, and the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Phil Vassar; Cpl. Visnu Gonzalez, USMC, son of Maria Baez; and Patricia, wife, and Ric, father, of PO 3d Class Nathan B.

Bruckenthal, USCG, who was killed in the northern Persian Gulf on April 24, 2004.

Remarks in a Discussion With President Martin Torrijos Espino of Panama

May 6, 2008

President Bush. It's been my pleasure to welcome my friend the President of Panama. Mr. President, welcome back. It's good to see you, sir. I can't thank you enough for your friendship and your leadership. Under your leadership, relations between the United States and Panama are strong and healthy and vibrant.

I'll never forget being your guest in your beautiful country and going to see the Panama Canal. It's an engineering marvel. And then when you shared with me your vision about the expansion of the Canal, I said, now here's a man who thinks big. And, in fact, not only do you think big, but you act. And the President has shared with me the expansion plans, the progress being made, and I congratulate you very much for that progress.

Secondly, we talked about trade. The Panamanian free trade vote is a priority of this Government. It is—it should be a priority of the United States Congress. The President has heard a lot of talk about whether or not trade bills will move or not. And I assured him that we will do everything in our capacity to move the trade bills, not only the Panamanian bill but the Colombian bill and the Korean bill. It's in this country's interest, Mr. President. And I want to thank you for going up to the Hill to work the issue.

We talked about food prices. The President is deeply concerned about the cost of food for the citizens of his country. I expressed the same concerns. I told him that if there's any way that we can help with food shortages, we'll try to help. And—but I appreciate your compassion and *corazon grande*.

And finally, we talked about drugs—*drugs*. And I assured him I understood that the drug issue is two-way. One, that because too many of our citizens use drugs, it provides an avenue for the movement of drugs. And we've got to do a better job in America

of reducing the demand for drugs. And we must also help our friends in the neighborhood deal with the suppliers of drugs. The President is committed to sharing intelligence and working closely—and so are we—working closely together to prevent drugs from being transhipped through Panama, which is bad for his country and bad for ours.

And there's a bill—a funding issue up on Congress called the Merida project that not only works with Mexico but also works with our Central American friends, including Panama. It's a strategy designed by experts on both sides. It's a strategy that we're convinced will work. And I ask Congress to pass the Merida project in whole, as written.

And, Mr. President, I'm honored you're here, and I thank you again for coming.

President Torrijos. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. *Bueno hombre.*

President Torrijos. Thank you, Mr. President. I want to thank you for your interest in the region—in Latin America. You have not only studied the problems of Latin America, but you have visited Latin America. It's been a part of your concern. And I want to thank you for your commitment on free trade and on the hopes that we can successfully conclude the—[inaudible]—and trade that we have together.

I want to thank you for the cooperation that we are experiencing in this difficult time regarding food prices and exchanging ideas, projects that we have on the bilateral agenda—projects on education, projects on health, and of course, a mutual commitment of fighting drug trafficking in benefit of both countries and building the capacity of the region to be able to handle the problems related to drugs and crime.

So thank you, President. It's been really a privilege, the friendship that Panama has with the United States. And we hope that this success story of Panama and the United States solving the issue of the Panama Canal, and now looking forward for the future of the canal expansion, it's something that we always keep in mind of how we can build a mutual future.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. *Gracias.*

President Torrijos. Thank you.

President Bush. Yes. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:07 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Memorandum on Assignment of Reporting Function Under Subsection 1225(a) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007

May 6, 2008

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Assignment of Reporting Function Under Subsection 1225(a) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to you the function of the President under subsection 1225(a) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364).

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 13, 2008]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 14.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Iceland-United States Taxation Convention

May 6, 2008

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Iceland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, and accompanying Protocol, signed on October 23, 2007, at Washington, D.C. (the “proposed Treaty”).

The proposed Treaty would replace the existing income tax Convention with Iceland that was concluded in 1975 (the “existing Treaty”). Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the proposed Treaty.

The proposed Treaty contains a comprehensive provision designed to prevent so-called treaty shopping. The existing Treaty contains no such protections, resulting in substantial abuse of the existing Treaty’s provisions by third-country investors. The proposed Treaty also reflects changes to U.S. and Icelandic law and tax treaty policy since 1975.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the proposed Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 6, 2008.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the House Republican Conference

May 7, 2008

I’m pleased to be joined by the Republican House leadership. These are dear friends of mine who are committed to doing what’s right for the country.

I just met with the Republican caucus from the House, and I want to share some thoughts with you. First of all, we are committed to a good housing bill that will help folks stay in their house, as opposed to a housing bill that will reward speculators and lenders. There’s a House alternative that will do the right thing for the American people when it comes to housing.

I will veto the bill that’s moving through the House today if it makes it to my desk. And I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to focus on a good piece of legislation that is being sponsored by Republican Members.

Secondly, we talked about gasoline prices. No doubt about it, we’re deeply concerned about the high price of gasoline, which means that the United States Congress should not pass legislation that makes it harder to increase the supply of crude oil as well

as increase the supply of gasoline. What they should do is allow for the construction of refinery and for environmentally friendly domestic exploration.

And if—the truth of the matter is—Congress were that concerned about the consumers, they ought to make sure that they make the tax relief we passed a permanent part of the Tax Code.

We talked about the supplemental that's moving. I told the Members I support \$108 billion supplemental without any strings and that we're going to work toward that goal.

I talked about the Colombia free trade agreement. The Speaker stopped the bill from moving. All we ask is that it be given an up-or-down vote. The bill is in our economic interests. If you're worried about the economy, then you got to recognize that opening markets for U.S. goods and services will help strengthen the economy. And if you're worried about the security in our neighborhood, turning our back on a strong ally like President Uribe will be—is bad national security policy. And the Speaker has got to let this bill come to the floor for an up-or-down vote.

And finally, we talked about FISA. That's the ability for our intelligence folks and folks on the frontline of protecting America to have the tools necessary to stop Al Qaida from attacking us. And the fact that the Democrat leadership refuses to let this vote come to the floor is bad for our national security. This vote will pass—this bill would pass. It has passed the Senate; will pass the House, thanks to the leadership of the Members up here as well as discerning Democrats. And yet the leadership refuses to let it come up. And the country is at greater risk as a result of not having a modernized FISA bill.

And so those are the issues we discussed. It's a positive agenda. It's an agenda that speaks to the economic interests of the people. It's an agenda that speaks to the national security interests of the people. And it's an agenda that recognizes that we can find the wisdom of the American people in their souls, in their hearts. We listen carefully to what they think, and we respond in a way that meets their needs.

And so thank you all for coming. Proud to work with you, and enjoyed visiting today. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. on the North Portico at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia.

Remarks to the Council of the Americas

May 7, 2008

Thank you all. Please be seated. Bill, thank you for the kind introduction. Thanks for giving me a chance to come by and see that the Secretary of State's dining room is a lot better than the President's dining room. *[Laughter]* I'm honored to be here. I'm pleased to be with the Council of Americas again. I appreciate what you do to promote personal and economic freedom throughout the region, throughout the Americas. I appreciate your strong concern about the need for liberty to be spread—liberty in forms of government and liberty in forms of economies.

I am honored to be here with the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, better known in the neighborhood as *Senorita Arroz*. *[Laughter]* I'm pleased to be with Carlos Gutierrez, the Secretary of Commerce, Susan Schwab, the U.S. Trade Representative. Thrilled to be here with Susan Segal, the president and CEO of the Council of Americas; a dear family friend, former member of the Cabinet of—in 41, Robert Mosbacher; Mack McLarty as well—people who care a lot about the region. Thank you for joining us here. I'm also pleased to be here with Ministers, representatives, Ambassadors from the Governments of Canada, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru. Honored you all are here.

The foundation of a good foreign policy is good relations with your neighbors. A peaceful and secure neighborhood is in the interest of the United States of America. And so I want to talk to you about the hemisphere we share, the challenges we face, and the aggressive work that the United States is doing to help make the Americas a place of hope and liberty.

In recent decades, there have been positive developments in Latin America. Countries have moved away from an era of dictatorships, era of civil strife. Unfortunately, today, some countries in the region are seeing a resurgence of radicalism and instability. And one nation in the region remains mired in the tyranny of a bygone era, and that is Cuba.

Yesterday I had a fascinating opportunity to speak with a leading Cuban dissident, a former political prisoner, and a wife of a man who is held in a Cuban prison simply because he expressed his belief that all people should live in a free society. Videoconferencing is one of the great wonders of the 21st century. And to be able to sit in the White House and talk to these three brave souls in Havana was a inspiring moment for me. It reminded me about how much work the United States has to do to help the people in Cuba realize the blessings of liberty.

It also reminded me of a couple of things. One, that there's an eternal truth when it comes to freedom; that there is an Almighty, and a gift of that Almighty to every man, woman, and child, whether they be American, *Cubano*, or anywhere else, is freedom; and that it's going to take the courage and determination of individuals such as the three I met with to help inspire the island to embrace freedom.

The Cuban Government recently announced a change at the top. Some in the world marveled that perhaps change is on its way. That's not how I view it. Until there's a change of heart and a change of compassion and a change of how the Cuban Government treats its people, there's no change at all. The regime has made empty gestures at reform, but Cuba is still ruled by the same group that has oppressed the Cuban people for almost half a century. Cuba will not be a land of liberty so long as free expression is punished and free speech can take place only in hushed whispers and silent prayers. And Cuba will not become a place of prosperity just by easing restrictions on the sale of products that the average Cuban cannot afford.

If Cuba wants to join the community of civilized nations, then Cuba's rulers must begin a process of peaceful democratic change. And the first step must be to release

all political prisoners. They must respect the human rights in word and in deed. And they must allow what the Cuban people have desired for generations: to pick their own leaders in free and fair elections. This is the policy of the United States, and it must not change until the people of Cuba are free.

We will face other challenges in the hemisphere as well. I'm deeply concerned about the challenge of illicit drug trade. First, I fully understand that when there is demand, there will be supply. And the United States of America is implementing a strategy to reduce—a comprehensive strategy to convince our people to stop using illegal drugs. I talk to my counterparts all the time in the region. And I talk about how we can work together—and I'll explain some strategies here in a minute—but I also remind them that so long as the United States uses illegal drugs, you know, drug dealers will find a way to get their products here.

We made some progress on reducing demand. Since 2001, the rate of drug use among the young has dropped by 24 percent. Young people's use of marijuana is down by 25 percent. The use of ecstasy has dropped by more than 50 percent. Methamphetamine use is down by 64 percent. Overall, it's estimated that 860,000 fewer young people in America are using drugs today than when we began. But obviously, we still have a lot of work to do. And so my commitment to our friends in the neighborhood is, the United States will continue to implement its comprehensive strategy to do our part to reduce demand for illegal drugs.

Secondly, we're working to intercept illegal drugs before they reach our citizens. Every day, the men and women of the DEA, the Coast Guard, the Border Patrol, and other law enforcement organizations are working tirelessly to intercept drugs, to stop money laundering, and to bust the gangs that are spreading this poison throughout our society. We've had some success. We've seized record amounts of cocaine coming into the United States. Last year, these efforts resulted in a significant disruption of the availability of cocaine in 38 major cities. We still have more work to do.

And a final leg of our strategy is this: We will work with our partners, Mexico and the

countries of Central America, to take on the international drug trade. I am deeply concerned about how lethal and how brutal these drug lords are. I have watched with admiration how President Calderon has taken a firm hand in making sure his society is free of these drug lords. And the tougher Mexico gets, the more likely it is they—that these drug families and these kingpins will try to find safe haven in Central America.

And that is why I committed my administration to the Merida Initiative. It's a partnership, a cooperative partnership with Mexico and Central America that will help them deal with the scourge of these unbelievably wealthy and unbelievably violent drug kingpins. And I want to work with Congress to make sure that, one, they fully pass our requests in the upcoming supplemental debate, and also remind Members of Congress that the strategy that we have put forth is a strategy designed with the leadership of the Central American countries as well as with Mexico. It's a strategy designed to be effective. And so when Congress passes our supplemental request, they also got to make sure that they implement the strategy we proposed in full.

Another challenge is to—promoting social justice in the region. Nearly one out of four people in Latin America lives on \$2 a day. Children never finish grade school. Mothers have trouble finding a doctor. In the age of growing prosperity and abundance, this is a problem that the United States must take seriously. As the most prosperous country in the world, the United States is reaching out to help our partners improve the lives of their citizens.

Social justice requires access to decent health care. And so we're helping meet health care needs in some of the most remote parts of Latin America, primarily by using the United States military's medical personnel to treat local citizens.

I'll never forget going to Guatemala and seeing the clinics run by our troops. America is a compassionate country. We're plenty strong when we need to be. But our military has provided unbelievably good care for a lot of people who have never seen health care before. The missions last year provided treatment for 340,000 individuals in 15 countries.

And this year, a new series of humanitarian assistant missions will treat an additional 320,000. I mean, it's so important when people think of America and think of the neighborhood that they understand social justice is at the forefront of our agenda.

Social justice requires access to decent education as well. And since 2004, the taxpayers of the United States have provided more than \$300 million for education programs throughout the region, with a special emphasis, a special focus, on rural and marginalized populations.

Last year as well, the Secretary and I announced a new partnership for Latin American youth to help train thousands of young people in the Americas with their English and to provide opportunity to study here in the United States. And the reason why is simple: We want people in our neighborhood to have the skills necessary to take advantage of the opportunities of the 21st century. It's in the interest of the United States that we promote good health policies and good education policies.

Social justice also requires institutions that are fair, effective, and free of corruption. It's hard to have a hopeful society when leadership steals the taxpayers' money. It's hard to have a hopeful place when the people aren't comfortable with the nature of government. And so we'll continue our bilateral aid, and I'm proud of the amounts of money we're spending in the region. But we've also changed the way that we're providing aid by insisting upon rules of governance, rule of law, the education—the investment in education and health of its people, and governments to embrace marketplace economies.

And we do this what's called—through what's called the Millennium Challenge Account. It is a new way to say that, yes, we're going to provide taxpayers' money, but we expect something in return from the governments that we help. I don't think it's too much to ask a government that receives U.S. aid to fight corruption. A matter of fact, I think it's a request that's long overdue. I don't think it's too much to ask a government that we help to invest in the health and education of their children. Nor do I think it's too much to ask for a government to accept marketplace economics.

The Millennium Challenge Account has invested \$930 million in our region thus far to assist the countries of El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru. And let me talk about just some of the initiatives to give you a sense for the types of programs we're talking about.

In Honduras, the United States is providing assistance to nearly 1,300 farmers so they can develop their farmland and provide for their families. In Nicaragua, we've helped small farmers and entrepreneurs increase their productivity in rural communities. In Paraguay, we're working to—with local leaders to reduce the cost of starting new businesses.

See, the whole purpose is to encourage enterprise, infrastructure that'll help people get goods to markets; to provide the capacity— increase the capacity of these countries to be able to provide hope for their people. This is a really good program, and the Congress needs to fully fund it as they debate the appropriations bills this year.

The Millennium Challenge Account is one way to promote prosperity, but perhaps the most—not perhaps—the most effective way is through trade. Trade brings increased economic opportunities to both the people of Latin America and the people of the United States.

Congress recognized these opportunities. I mean, Congress took a look at whether or not we ought to have free trade agreements in our neighborhood, and they started doing so with Peru. And the bill, thankfully—the trade bill with Peru passed by a large bipartisan majority. It's a good agreement. It's good for Peru. It also happens to be good for the United States. And now my call on Congress is to take that same spirit by which they passed the Peruvian trade agreement and do the same thing for Colombia and Panama.

About 17 months ago, the United States signed a free trade agreement with Colombia. Ever since, my administration has worked closely with Congress to seek a bipartisan path for considering this agreement. I understand trade votes are hard. And that's why we continually reached out with—to Congress. We've had more than 400 consultations, meetings, and calls. We've led

trips to Colombia for more than 50 Members of Congress. We've worked closely with congressional leaders from both parties. We've responded to concerns over labor and environmental standards by including some of the most rigorous protections of any trade agreement in the history of the United States. We have bent over backwards to work with members from both parties on the Hill.

And despite this, Congress has refused to act. One month ago, I sent the bill to implement the agreement to the Congress. Yet the Speaker chose to block it instead of giving it an up-or-down vote that the Congress had committed to. Her action is unprecedented. It is extremely unfortunate. I hope the Speaker is going to change her mind. I hope you help her to change her mind. If she doesn't, the agreement is dead, and this will be bad for our workers, our businesses, and it'll be bad for America's national security.

Approving the agreement would strengthen our economy. Today, almost all of Colombia's exports enter the United States duty free. Yet American products exported to Colombia face tariffs of up to 35 percent for nonagricultural goods and much higher for many agricultural products. Think about that. They export into the United States duty free, and we don't have the same advantage. I would call that a one-sided economic agreement.

Failure to pass the free trade agreement, therefore, is making it much harder to sell our products into Colombia. To try to put this in perspective for you, this weekend we reached an unfortunate milestone when the tariffs imposed on U.S. exports to Colombia reached an estimated \$1 billion since the free trade agreement was signed. There's a—that's 1 billion good reasons why the United States Congress ought to pass this bill. Passing the agreement, we could create the—[*applause*].

Members of Congress need to think about this. Once implemented, the Colombia free trade agreement would immediately eliminate tariffs on more than 80 percent of American exports of industrial and consumer goods. Many American exports of agriculture and construction equipment, aircraft and auto parts, and medical and scientific equipment would immediately enter Colombia

duty free. So would farm exports like high-quality beef and cotton and wheat and soybeans and fruit. And eventually, the agreement would eliminate all tariffs on U.S. goods and services.

Opening markets is especially important during this time of economic uncertainty. Last year, exports accounted for more than 40 percent of America's total economic growth. Forty percent of the growth was as a result of goods and services being sold from the United States into foreign markets. With our economy slowing, it seems like to me that we should be doing everything possible to open up new markets for U.S. goods and services. More than 9,000 American companies, including 8,000 small and midsized firms, export to Colombia. And approving this agreement, opening up markets for their goods and services, would help them increase sales, would help them grow their businesses, and would help them pay good-paying jobs.

If you're interested in work in America, if you're interested in economic vitality, you ought to be doing everything you can to make it easier for U.S. companies to be selling overseas.

And finally, approving this agreement is a urgent national security priority. Colombia is one of our strongest allies in the Western Hemisphere. I admire President Uribe a lot. He is courageous. He shares our values. He is a strong, capable partner in fighting drugs and crime and terror. The Colombia Government reports, since 2002, kidnappings in Colombia have dropped 83 percent, terrorist attacks are down 76 percent, murders have dropped by 40 percent. He's got a strong record of doing what he said he was going to do.

And despite the progress, Colombia remains under intense pressure in the region. It faces a continuing assault from the terrorist group known as FARC, which seizes hostages and murders innocent civilians. Colombia faces a hostile and anti-American neighbor in Venezuela, where the regime has forged an alliance with Cuba, collaborated with FARC terrorists, and provided sanctuary to FARC units.

President Uribe has stood strong. He has done so with the assurance of American support. Congress's failure to pass the Colombia

free trade agreement has called this support into question. President Uribe told Members of Congress that approving this agreement is one of the most important ways that America can show our unwavering commitment to Colombia. Congressional leaders need to send a message that we support this brave and courageous leader and that we will not turn our back on one of our most steadfast allies.

Yesterday I met with the President of Panama. I assured him our efforts to get the Panamanian trade bill passed will be just as vociferous and vigorous as our efforts to get the Colombia trade bill passed. Congress must understand, they have a chance to spread prosperity in our neighborhood; they have a chance to support friends in our neighborhood. And there's no better way to express that friendship than to support the Colombia free trade agreement, the Panamanian free trade agreement, and while they're at it, to send a clear message around the world that the South Korean free trade agreement is good for the U.S. economy as well.

The ties between the people of the United States and the people of Latin America are important to our country. They're important to our prosperity, and they're important to the national security interests of the country. We share a deep bond, a bond between friends and a bond between neighbors. And because of this bond, the United States will, and must, remain committed to making sure that Latin America is a place of opportunity, a place of hope, a place of social justice, a place where basic necessities like health care and education are not too much for any child to dream about, or a place where poverty gives way to prosperity, and a place, above all, where freedom is the birthright of every citizen.

I want to thank you for taking on the cause. I thank you for your vision. I thank you for your steadfast support of doing what's right in our neighborhood. And it's been my honor to come and share some thoughts with you. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:14 p.m. at the State Department. In his remarks, he referred to William R. Rhodes, chairman, Council of the Americas; former White House Chief of Staff Thomas F. "Mack" McLarty; Cuban dissident

Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello; former Cuban political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez; Berta Soler Fernandez, wife of Cuban political prisoner Angel Moya Acosta; President Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa of Mexico; and President Martin Torrijos Espino of Panama. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency Blocking Property of Certain Persons and Prohibiting the Export of Certain Goods to Syria

May 7, 2008

On May 11, 2004, pursuant to my authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) and the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–175), I issued Executive Order 13338, in which I declared a national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria. To deal with this national emergency, Executive Order 13338 authorized the blocking of property of certain persons and prohibited the exportation or re-exportation of certain goods to Syria. On April 25, 2006, and February 13, 2008, I issued Executive Order 13399 and Executive Order 13460, respectively, to take additional steps with respect to this national emergency.

I took these actions to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions of the Government of Syria in supporting terrorism, maintaining its then-existing occupation of Lebanon, pursuing weapons of mass destruction and missile programs including the recent revelation of illicit nuclear cooperation with North Korea, and undermining U.S. and international efforts with respect to the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq.

Because the actions and policies of the Government of Syria continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency declared on May 11, 2004, and the measures adopted on that date and on April 25, 2006,

in Executive Order 13399, and on February 13, 2008, in Executive Order 13460, to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond May 11, 2008. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency authorizing the blocking of property of certain persons and prohibiting the exportation or re-exportation of certain goods to Syria.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 7, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:26 a.m., May 8, 2008]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on May 9.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency Blocking Property of Certain Persons and Prohibiting the Export of Certain Goods to Syria

May 7, 2008

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, and Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, authorizing the blocking of property of certain persons and prohibiting the exportation and re-exportation of certain goods to Syria, is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2008.

The actions of the Government of Syria in supporting terrorism, interfering in Lebanon, pursuing weapons of mass destruction and missile programs including the recent revelation of illicit nuclear cooperation with North Korea, and undermining U.S. and international efforts with respect to the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared with respect to this threat and to maintain in force the sanctions I have ordered to address this national emergency.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 7, 2008.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting the Czech Republic-
United States Social Security
Agreement**

May 7, 2008

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Czech Republic on Social Security, which consists of two separate instruments: a principal agreement and an administrative arrangement. The Agreement was signed in Prague on September 7, 2007.

The United States-Czech Republic Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protec-

tion that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries. The United States-Czech Republic Agreement contains all provisions mandated by section 233 and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4).

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report prepared by the Social Security Administration explaining the key points of the Agreement, along with a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of the provisions of the principal agreement and the related administrative arrangement. Annexed to this report is the report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, which describes the effect of the Agreement on income and expenditures of the U.S. Social Security program and the number of individuals affected by the Agreement. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend to the Congress the United States-Czech Republic Social Security Agreement and related documents.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 7, 2008.

**Proclamation 8253—Mother's Day,
2008**

May 8, 2008

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

On Mother's Day, we honor the grace, wisdom, and strength of our mothers, and we celebrate the special bonds shared between mothers and their children.

Mothers work tirelessly to help their children build healthy and successful lives. Through their positive examples and countless acts of kindness, mothers teach the values of generosity and compassion and the importance of family and community. As President Ronald Reagan said, "From our mothers, we first learn about values and caring and the difference between right and

wrong.” By providing a nurturing environment where their children can grow in confidence and character, mothers lay the foundation for the next generation of Americans to realize their full potential.

Our Nation is grateful for the sacrifices mothers make every day and for the unconditional love they give their children. We are especially thankful for the mothers who support their sons and daughters serving in our Armed Forces and for the mothers who bring honor to the uniform of the United States by defending our freedom at home and abroad.

Every child blessed with a mother’s love has been given one of life’s great gifts. On this Mother’s Day, we recognize the extraordinary contributions America’s mothers make to their children, their families, and our country.

To honor mothers, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914, as amended (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May each year as “Mother’s Day” and has requested the President to call for its appropriate observance. May God bless mothers across America on this special day and throughout the year.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 11, 2008, as Mother’s Day. I encourage all Americans to show their gratitude and love to mothers for making a difference in the lives of their children, families, and communities. I call upon citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:24 a.m., May 9, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 12.

Memorandum on Designation and Sharing of Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)

May 7, 2008

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Designation and Sharing of Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)

Purpose

(1) This memorandum (a) adopts, defines, and institutes “Controlled Unclassified Information” (CUI) as the single, categorical designation henceforth throughout the executive branch for all information within the scope of that definition, which includes most information heretofore referred to as “Sensitive But Unclassified” (SBU) in the Information Sharing Environment (ISE), and (b) establishes a corresponding new CUI Framework for designating, marking, safeguarding, and disseminating information designated as CUI. The memorandum’s purpose is to standardize practices and thereby improve the sharing of information, not to classify or declassify new or additional information.

Background—The Current SBU Environment

(2) The global nature of the threats facing the United States requires that (a) our Nation’s entire network of defenders be able to share information more rapidly so those who must act have the information they need, and (b) the United States Government protect sensitive information, information privacy, and other legal rights of Americans. A uniform and more standardized governmentwide framework for what has previously been known as SBU information is essential for the ISE to succeed. Accordingly, this memorandum establishes a standardized framework designed to facilitate and enhance the sharing of Controlled Unclassified Information.

Definitions

(3) In this memorandum, the following terms have the meaning indicated:

a. “Controlled Unclassified Information” is a categorical designation that refers to unclassified information that does not meet the

standards for National Security Classification under Executive Order 12958, as amended, but is (i) pertinent to the national interests of the United States or to the important interests of entities outside the Federal Government, and (ii) under law or policy requires protection from unauthorized disclosure, special handling safeguards, or prescribed limits on exchange or dissemination. Henceforth, the designation CUI replaces "Sensitive But Unclassified" (SBU).

b. "CUI Council" is a subcommittee of the Information Sharing Council (ISC), created by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458) (IRTPA).

c. "CUI Framework" refers to the single set of policies and procedures governing the designation, marking, safeguarding, and dissemination of CUI terrorism-related information that originates in departments and agencies, regardless of the medium used for the display, storage, or transmittal of such information.

d. "CUI Framework Standards Registry" (the "CUI Registry") refers to the official list of, and recognized standards for, CUI markings including "safeguarding," and "dissemination" maintained by the Executive Agent.

e. "Departments and Agencies" means executive agencies as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code; the United States Postal Service; but not the Government Accountability Office.

f. "Enhanced Safeguarding" is a handling requirement that means the information so designated is subject to measures more stringent than those normally required because inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure would create a risk of substantial harm. This requirement is indicated by the marking "Controlled Enhanced."

g. "Executive Agent" means the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

h. "Information" means any communicable knowledge or documentary material, regardless of its physical form or characteristics, that is owned by, is produced by or for, or is under the control of the Federal Government.

i. "Information Sharing Environment" means an approach that facilitates the shar-

ing of "terrorism information," as defined by section 1016 of IRTPA.

j. "Safeguarding" means measures and controls that are prescribed to protect controlled unclassified information.

k. "Sensitive But Unclassified" refers collectively to the various designations used heretofore within the Federal Government for documents and information that are sufficiently sensitive to warrant some level of protection from disclosure but that do not warrant classification.

l. "Specified Dissemination" is a handling instruction that means the information so designated is subject to additional instructions governing the extent to which dissemination is permitted.

m. "Standard Dissemination" is a handling instruction that means dissemination is authorized to the extent it is reasonably believed that dissemination would further the execution of lawful or official mission purpose, provided that individuals disseminating this information do so within the scope of their assigned duties.

n. "Standard Safeguarding" is a handling requirement that means the information so designated is subject to baseline safeguarding measures that reduce the risks of unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure. This requirement shall be indicated through the use of the marking "Controlled."

o. "Terrorism-Related Information" means (i) information, as defined by Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, Public Law 110-53, section 504; (ii) homeland security information, as defined by 6 U.S.C. 482(f); and (iii) law enforcement information relating to terrorism.

Policy—The CUI Framework

(4) The uniform use of CUI is essential to fostering an effective ISE. All departments and agencies shall apply the CUI Framework, which consists of the following policies and standards, as outlined in paragraphs 5-19 for the designation, marking, safeguarding, and dissemination of any CUI terrorism-related information within the ISE that originates in departments and agencies, regardless of the medium used for its display, storage, or transmittal.

(5) All CUI shall merit one of two levels of safeguarding procedures: standard (marked “Controlled”) or enhanced (marked “Controlled Enhanced”).

(6) All CUI shall merit one of two levels of dissemination controls: “Standard Dissemination” or “Specified Dissemination.”

(7) All CUI shall be (a) categorized into one of three combinations of safeguarding procedures and dissemination controls, and (b) so indicated through the use of the following corresponding markings:

(i) “*Controlled with Standard Dissemination*” meaning the information requires standard safeguarding measures that reduce the risks of unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure. Dissemination is permitted to the extent that it is reasonably believed that it would further the execution of a lawful or official purpose.

(ii) “*Controlled with Specified Dissemination*” meaning the information requires safeguarding measures that reduce the risks of unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure. Material contains additional instructions on what dissemination is permitted.

(iii) “*Controlled Enhanced with Specified Dissemination*” meaning the information requires safeguarding measures more stringent than those normally required since the inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure would create risk of substantial harm. Material contains additional instructions on what dissemination is permitted.

(8) Any additional CUI markings may be prescribed only by the Executive Agent. Use of additional CUI markings is prohibited unless the Executive Agent determines that extraordinary circumstances warrant the use of additional markings.

(9) Departments and agencies shall apply the CUI Registry’s standards. The originator of CUI may not impose any additional safeguarding or dissemination requirements upon the recipient(s). No department or agency shall create CUI categories or rules outside the CUI Framework.

(10) Recipients of CUI shall report any unauthorized or inadvertent disclosures to the designating agency.

(11) All CUI shall be marked in a clear manner and conform to statutory and regulatory requirements, if any, regarding mark-

ings. Recipients of CUI that is not marked shall mark the information appropriately and inform the originator that it has been so marked.

(12) Wherever possible, it is expected that departments and agencies will re-mark archived or legacy material when it is incorporated into the ISE.

(13) CUI markings may inform but do not control the decision of whether to disclose or release the information to the public, such as in response to a request made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

(14) Originating departments and agencies shall retain control of decisions regarding whether to disseminate CUI materials beyond their Standard or Specified Dissemination instructions, including any dissemination to the media or general public.

(15) Material that contains both CUI and non-CUI information, or that contains multiple categories of CUI, should be marked accordingly by portions such that those categorical distinctions are apparent.

(16) The CUI markings shall be incorporated into ISE-related information technology (IT) projects under development or developed in the future and shall be reflected in plans for new information technologies.

(17) The CUI markings shall be used regardless of the medium through which the information appears or conveys. Oral communications should be prefaced with a statement describing the controls when necessary to ensure that recipients are aware of the information’s status.

(18) Departments or agencies shall not impose safeguarding requirements or dissemination controls on information in the ISE that is neither classified nor CUI.

(19) When a department or agency receives CUI originating from a State, local, tribal, private sector, or foreign partner, any nonfederal legacy markings shall be retained, unless the originator authorizes its removal.

(20) Implementation of the CUI Framework shall commence upon the date of this memorandum and shall be completed within 5 years.

CUI Framework Implementation

(21) The Executive Agent shall be responsible for overseeing and managing implementation of this CUI Framework.

(22) The Executive Agent shall have the following authorities and responsibilities:

a. Develop and issue CUI policy standards and implementation guidance consistent with this memorandum, including appropriate recommendations to State, local, tribal, private sector, and foreign partner entities for implementing the CUI Framework. As appropriate, establish new safeguarding and dissemination controls, and, upon a determination that extraordinary circumstances warrant the use of additional CUI markings, authorize the use of such additional markings;

b. Establish and chair the CUI Council;

c. Establish, approve, and maintain safeguarding standards and dissemination instructions, including "Specified Dissemination" requirements proposed by the heads of departments and agencies;

d. Publish the CUI safeguarding and dissemination standards in the CUI Registry;

e. Monitor department and agency compliance with CUI policy, standards, and markings;

f. Establish baseline training requirements and develop an ISE-wide CUI training program to be implemented by departments and agencies;

g. Provide appropriate information regarding the CUI Framework to the Congress, to State, local, tribal, and private sector entities, and to foreign partners;

h. Advise the heads of departments and agencies on the resolution by the CUI Council of complaints and disputes among such departments and agencies concerning the proper designation or marking of CUI; and

i. Establish, in consultation with affected departments and agencies, a process that addresses enforcement mechanisms and penalties for improper handling of CUI. (23) A CUI Council is hereby established as a subcommittee of the ISC. Its members shall be drawn from the ISC's membership. The CUI Council shall:

a. Serve as the primary advisor to the Executive Agent on issues pertaining to the CUI Framework;

b. Advise the Executive Agent in developing procedures, guidelines, and standards necessary to establish, implement, and maintain the CUI Framework;

c. Ensure coordination among the departments and agencies participating in the CUI Framework;

d. Advise the Executive Agent on the resolution of complaints and disputes among departments and agencies about proper designation or marking of CUI; and

e. As appropriate, consult with the ISC's State, Local, Tribal, and Private Sector Subcommittee.

(24) The head of each department and agency with possession of terrorism-related information shall:

a. Ensure the implementation of the CUI Framework within such department or agency;

b. Promulgate guidance for the implementation of the CUI Framework within such department or agency, consistent with ISE-wide CUI policies issued by the CUI Executive Agent, as established in paragraph 21;

c. Adopt markings listed in the CUI Registry maintained by the Executive Agent as the exclusive CUI markings used by such department or agency, consistent with paragraphs 5–8 of this memorandum;

d. Propose any necessary "Specified Dissemination" instructions to the Executive Agent for approval and listing in the CUI Registry;

e. Designate an appropriately qualified senior official from within the department or agency as its representative on the CUI Council;

f. Implement a CUI training program for their respective department or agency, based on the ISE-wide training program established by the Executive Agent, and ensure all appropriate personnel (i) understand CUI policies and procedures, and (ii) can apply them when creating, disseminating, or safeguarding CUI material;

g. Establish a process that enables their respective department or agency to address noncompliance with the new CUI Framework within the agency, and ensure management and oversight issues or concerns can be elevated to the appropriate department or agency decision-makers;

h. Establish a process within their respective department or agency that, where appropriate, promptly raises to the Executive Agent matters of concern regarding the Framework; and

i. Ensure full implementation of the CUI Framework, consistent with policies, guidance, and standards established by the Executive Agent, within 5 years of the date of this memorandum.

Designating CUI

(25) Information shall be designated as CUI and carry an authorized CUI marking if:

a. a statute requires or authorizes such a designation; or

b. the head of the originating department or agency, through regulations, directives, or other specific guidance to the agency, determines that the information is CUI. Such determination should be based on mission requirements, business prudence, legal privilege, the protection of personal or commercial rights, safety, or security. Such department or agency directives, regulations, or guidance shall be provided to the Executive Agent for review.

(26) Notwithstanding the above, information shall not be designated as CUI:

a. to (i) conceal violations of law, inefficiency, or administrative error; (ii) prevent embarrassment to the Federal Government or any Federal official, any organization, or agency; (iii) improperly or unlawfully interfere with competition in the private sector; or (iv) prevent or delay the release of information that does not require such protection;

b. if it is required to be made available to the public; or

c. if it has already been released to the public under proper authority.

Exceptions to CUI

(27) This memorandum requires that all CUI originated by departments and agencies and shared within the ISE shall conform to the policies and standards for the designating, marking, safeguarding, and disseminating established in accordance with this memorandum. However, infrastructure protection agreements not fully accommodated under the CUI Framework (and its associ-

ated markings, safeguarding requirements, and dissemination limitations) shall be considered exceptions to this CUI Framework. Infrastructure protection exceptions include and apply to information governed by or subject to the following regulations:

a. 6 CFR Pt. 29—PCII (Protected Critical Infrastructure Information);

b. 49 CFR Pts. 15 (Department of Transportation) & 1520 (Department of Homeland Security/Transportation Security Administration)—SSI (Sensitive Security Information);

c. 6 CFR Pt. 27—CVI (Chemical Vulnerability Information); and

d. 10 CFR Pt. 73—SGI (Safeguards Information).

(28) The CUI Framework shall be used for such information to the maximum extent possible, but shall not affect or interfere with specific regulatory requirements for marking, safeguarding, and disseminating.

(29) The affected department or agency is authorized to select the most applicable CUI safeguarding marking for the regulation. Any additional requirements for the safeguarding beyond that specified under the CUI Framework shall be appropriately registered in the CUI Registry. Any regulatory marking shall follow the CUI marking, and a specified dissemination instruction shall articulate any additional regulatory requirements.

General Provisions

(30) This memorandum:

a. shall be implemented in a manner consistent with applicable law, including Federal laws protecting the information privacy rights and other legal rights of Americans, and subject to the availability of appropriations;

b. shall be implemented in a manner consistent with the statutory authority of the principal officers of departments and agencies as heads of their respective departments or agencies;

c. shall not be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, and legislative proposals; and

d. is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and

is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9.

Proclamation 8254—National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, 2008
May 9, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's transportation system strengthens our national security and keeps our country moving. On National Defense Transportation Day and during National Transportation Week, we thank the men and women of the transportation industry for their efforts to ensure that our Nation's infrastructure operates effectively and efficiently.

Innovation, investment, and imagination have enabled new modes of transportation to revolutionize the world. Today, businesses can deliver goods and services faster than ever, first responders can quickly bring hope and healing to those in need, and people can visit loved ones across the country or around the globe. The Armed Forces utilize modern transportation to deploy troops, move supplies, and bring our heroes home from the front lines. We are grateful for the hard work of all transportation professionals.

My Administration supports the continued creation of safer, more secure, and more reliable roadways, bridges, airports, seaports, and mass transit systems. We are addressing the challenges facing our transportation system today, helping lay the groundwork for future demands, and giving State and local authorities the flexibility to solve transportation problems in their communities. By promoting research in advanced transportation technologies, my Administration is also working to help end our reliance on foreign

sources of energy, improve our environment, and strengthen our economic and national security.

To recognize the men and women who work in the transportation industry and who contribute to our Nation's well-being and defense, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957, as amended (36 U.S.C. 120), has requested that the President designate the third Friday in May of each year as "National Defense Transportation Day," and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962, as amended (36 U.S.C. 133), that the week during which that Friday falls be designated as "National Transportation Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 16, 2008, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 11 through May 17, 2008, as National Transportation Week. I encourage all Americans to learn how our modern transportation system contributes to the security of our citizens and the prosperity of our country and to celebrate these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 13, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 14.

Proclamation 8255—Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2008

May 9, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Across our Nation, law enforcement officers carry the great responsibility of protecting their fellow citizens. On Peace Officers' Memorial Day and during Police Week, we honor these brave public servants who

fight crime, violence, and terrorism, and we pay homage to the heroes who have fallen in the line of duty.

With valor and devotion, our country's law enforcement officers stand watch on the front lines and help make our communities safer and more secure. Fulfilling their duties with courage and commitment, they work tirelessly and put themselves in harm's way, exemplifying the good and decent character of America.

As we observe Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, we pause to pay tribute to those who serve in law enforcement. On this occasion, we especially remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and we pray for the families and friends they have left behind. We thank all the extraordinary American men and women who have answered the call to serve in law enforcement for their commitment to justice and to their communities.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended (76 Stat. 676), and by Public Law 103-322, as amended (36 U.S.C. 136-137), the President has been authorized and requested to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers' Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week," and to direct that the flag be flown at half staff on Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2008, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and May 11 through May 17, 2008, as Police Week. I call on all Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call on Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of the other territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half staff on Peace Officers' Memorial Day. I further encourage all Americans to display the flag at half staff from their homes and businesses on that day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the

Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 13, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 14.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 3

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

May 4

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Wichita, KS, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Buddy Shannon III. He then traveled to Greensburg, KS. Later, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

May 5

In the morning, on the South Lawn, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an interview with Robin Roberts of ABC's "Good Morning America." Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, in the Rose Garden, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a social dinner and entertainment in honor of Cinco de Mayo.

The President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding from March 17-23.

The President announced his intention to appoint Michael R. Anderson and Gregg C. Lord as members of the National Commission on Children and Disasters.

May 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Situation Room, the President had a video teleconference with Cuban dissident Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, former Cuban political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez, and Berta Soler Fernandez, wife of Cuban political prisoner Angel Moya Acosta.

The President announced his intention to nominate Cynthia L. Bauerly, Caroline C. Hunter, and Donald McGahn to be members of the Federal Election Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Troy A. Paredes to be a Commissioner on the Securities and Exchange Commission.

May 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a bill signing ceremony for H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008. Then, also in the Oval Office, he participated in a briefing with Secretary of Agriculture Edward T. Schafer and Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Nancy Montanez Johner on food aid programs.

May 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President declared a major disaster in Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on March 20 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donetta Davidson and Rosemary E. Rodriguez to be members of the Election Assistance Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Thomas D. Cairns as Chief Human Capital Officer at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities: James M. Boles;

Stephanie Preshong Brown; Olegario D. Cantos VII; Eric Lee Cole; Berthy De La Rosa-Aponte; William J. Edwards; MaryMargaret Sharp-Pucci; Linda Hampton Starnes; Dallas Rob Sweezy; William E. Tienken; Eric Todd Treat; Charles Weis; and Mary Ellen Zeppuhar.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Commission of Fine Arts: Diana Balmori; Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk; Earl A. Powell III; and Witold Rybczynski.

The President announced his intention to designate Thomas Richard Barker as Acting General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced his intention to designate Steven C. Rhatigan as Chair of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

May 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding from April 9–28.

The President declared a major disaster in Maine and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on April 28 and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 6

Cynthia L. Bauerly, of Minnesota, to be a member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2011, vice Robert D. Lenhard.

Caroline C. Hunter,
of Florida, to be a member of the Federal
Election Commission for a term expiring
April 30, 2013, vice Michael E. Toner, re-
signed.

Donald F. McGahn,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member
of the Federal Election Commission for a
term expiring April 30, 2009, vice David M.
Mason, term expired.

Troy A. Paredes,
of Missouri, to be a member of the Securities
and Exchange Commission for a term expir-
ing June 5, 2013, vice Paul S. Atkins, re-
signed.

Withdrawn May 6

Robert J. Battista,
of Michigan, to be a member of the National
Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years
expiring December 16, 2009, vice Dennis P.
Walsh, which was sent to the Senate on Janu-
ary 25, 2008.

Robert D. Lenhard,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Federal
Election Commission for a term expiring
April 30, 2011, vice Danny Lee McDonald,
term expired, which was sent to the Senate
on January 9, 2007.

David M. Mason,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Federal
Election Commission for a term expiring
April 30, 2009 (reappointment), which was
sent to the Senate on January 9, 2007.

Submitted May 7

William Walter Wilkins III,
of South Carolina, to be U.S. Attorney for
the District of South Carolina for the term
of 4 years, vice Reginald I. Lloyd, resigned.

Submitted May 8

Glen E. Conrad,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the
Fourth Circuit, vice H. Emory Widener, re-
tired.

Donetta Davidson,
of Colorado, to be a member of the Election
Assistance Commission for a term expiring
December 12, 2011 (reappointment).

Rosemary E. Rodriguez,
of Colorado, to be a member of the Election
Assistance Commission for a term expiring
December 12, 2011 (reappointment).

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released May 4

Advance text of the President's commence-
ment address at Greensburg High School in
Greensburg, KS

Released May 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy
Press Secretary Scott M. Stanzel

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster
assistance to Oklahoma

Released May 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Se-
cretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Rus-
sia-U.S. agreement for peaceful nuclear co-
operation

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed H.R. 4286

Released May 7

Transcript of a press briefing by National Se-
curity Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on the
President's upcoming visit to the Middle East

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed H.R. 5715

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed H.R. 3196, H.R.
3468, H.R. 3532, H.R. 3720, H.R. 3803, H.R.

3936, H.R. 3988, H.R. 4166, H.R. 4203, H.R. 4211, H.R. 4240, H.R. 4454, H.R. 5135, H.R. 5220, H.R. 5400, H.R. 5472, and H.R. 5489

Released May 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by National Security Council Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 2457 and S. 2739

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Mississippi

Released May 9

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Council Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on the situation in Lebanon

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Oklahoma

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Maine

Fact sheet: Congress' Farm Bill is Bad for American Taxpayers

Acts Approved by the President

Approved May 6

H.R. 4286 / Public Law 110–209

To award a congressional gold medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma

Approved May 7

H.R. 3196 / Public Law 110–210

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Sussex Street in Port Jervis, New York, as the “E. Arthur Gray Post Office Building”

H.R. 3468 / Public Law 110–211

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1704 Weeksville

Road in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as the “Dr. Clifford Bell Jones, Sr. Post Office”

H.R. 3532 / Public Law 110–212

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5815 McLeod Street in Lula, Georgia, as the “Private Johnathon Millican Lula Post Office”

H.R. 3720 / Public Law 110–213

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 424 Clay Avenue in Waco, Texas, as the “Army PFC Juan Alonso Covarrubias Post Office Building”

H.R. 3803 / Public Law 110–214

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3100 Cashwell Drive in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the “John Henry Wooten, Sr. Post Office Building”

H.R. 3936 / Public Law 110–215

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 Helen Highway in Cleveland, Georgia, as the “Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office Building”

H.R. 3988 / Public Law 110–216

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3701 Altamesa Boulevard in Fort Worth, Texas, as the “Master Sergeant Kenneth N. Mack Post Office Building”

H.R. 4166 / Public Law 110–217

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 East Copeland Drive in Lebanon, Missouri, as the “Steve W. Allee Carrier Annex”

H.R. 4203 / Public Law 110–218

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3035 Stone Mountain Street in Lithonia, Georgia, as the “Specialist Jamaal RaShard Addison Post Office Building”

H.R. 4211 / Public Law 110–219

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, as the “Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office”

H.R. 4240 / Public Law 110–220

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10799 West Alameda Avenue in Lakewood, Colorado, as the “Felix Sparks Post Office Building”

H.R. 4454 / Public Law 110–221

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3050 Hunsinger Lane in Louisville, Kentucky, as the “Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Military Heroes of Louisville Memorial Post Office Building”, in honor of the servicemen and women from Louisville, Kentucky, who died in service during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom

H.R. 5135 / Public Law 110–222

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Greenway Street in Derby, Kansas, as the “Sergeant Jamie O. Maugans Post Office Building”

H.R. 5220 / Public Law 110–223

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3800 SW. 185th Avenue in Beaverton, Oregon, as the “Major Arthur Chin Post Office Building”

H.R. 5400 / Public Law 110–224

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 160 East Wash-

ington Street in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, as the “Sgt. Michael M. Kashkoush Post Office Building”

H.R. 5472 / Public Law 110–225

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, as the “Julia M. Carson Post Office Building”

H.R. 5489 / Public Law 110–226

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6892 Main Street in Gloucester, Virginia, as the “Congresswoman Jo Ann S. Davis Post Office”

H.R. 5715 / Public Law 110–227

Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008

Approved May 8

S. 2457 / Public Law 110–228

To provide for extensions of leases of certain land by Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe

S. 2739 / Public Law 110–229

Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008